during this period;

(c) whether any concrete steps have been taken by Government to improve the roads and National Highways in Assam; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No loan was received during the last three years from the World Financial Institutions for construction and repair of National Highways in the State of Assam.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) For the development and maintenance of National Highways in the State of Assam following amount has been allocated during 1999-2000.

| | | Amount (Rs. lakh) |
|---|---|---|
| (i) Ordinary Repairs | (New) | 805.00 |
| (ii) Periodic Renewals | (Continuing) | 2030.00 |
| (iii) Flood damage repair | | |
| (iv) Flood damage repair | | 300.00 |
| | TOTAL (M&R) | 3199.44 |

National Highway (Original)—Rs. 3100.00 lakhs.

In addition to the this, Special Renewal Programme for 145.00 km length has been sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 3,170.22 lakh, for improving^ road condition.

**Improvement of National Highways in North-Eastern Region**

185. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects sanctioned by Government for improvement of National Highways in the country particularly in the NER;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of amount sanctioned for National Highways in NE States (North-Eastern States)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) to (c) For improvement of National Highways in the country 235 estimates amounting to Rs. 408.55 crore have been sanctioned during 1999-2000. Out of these, 68 estimates amounting to Rs. 68.68 crore have been sanctioned for North Eastern Region.

**Privatisation of National Highways**

186. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering privatisation of National Highways in the country; and

(b) if so, the circumstances which warranted this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The constraint of resoursces led to innovative methods of financing for development of national highways through private sector participation.

Construction of six jetty port near Haldia

187. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether six-jetty port is proposed to be constructed near ' Haldia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when would autonomy be granted to Haldia Dock complex to increase its earnings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.